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States are yearly convicted of crime; two per cent. commit capital crime, and one per cent. of this number, or about one hundred persons, are executed every year. Inebriacy is not a voluntary condition within the control of the person. In one thousand cases confined on Blackwell's Island, nine hundred and thirty-five had been returned for the same offence from one to twenty-eight times. The inebriate murderers are subject to delusions, morbid impulses, epileptic explosions, sometimes alcoholic somnambulism; the death penalty has no horrors for them; the first sentence causes others. Inebriate murderers should have a private trial, should be confined for the rest of their life in a military work-house hospital.

Archives de l'Anthropologie Criminelle. Tome troisième. Paris, 1888. Chronique anglaise et anglo-américaine. Par H. COUTAGNE. pp. 702.

The writer refers in brief to the innovation of electricity in capital punishment. There are two objections to execution of the criminal by electricity: First from the frequent inconstance of electric currents. In England, in 1865 it was tried at the slaughter houses, and in spite of the energy of means employed they succeeded sometimes, but were compelled to resort to more certain methods. The second objection is more serious and will hold even if electricity in the hands of the executioner is made certain; it is, that the punishment by death can produce its preventative effect against crime only by virtue of a brutal method, which does not permit the least doubt as to its reality. Electricity will not produce this preventative effect, and will permit a suspicion of simulation. The writer's second objection is well taken. It may be said, however, that the cruel method, should it prevent a few murders, hardens at the same time the finer sentiments of the great mass of the people; on this basis the taking of life at all has an evil effect; also why should it be taken, if the method of doing it defeats the very end for which it is done? But a thorough statistical investigation rather than arguments may point towards a solution.

De la mort par l'électricité. D'ARSONAL. Archives de l'anthropologie criminelle. 1887.

Arsonal's experiments show that electricity can kill in two ways: (1.) By direct action of the discharge which causes instantaneous and irremediable death by the destruction of the tissues themselves. When a nervous, vascular or muscular tissue is excited by a discharge sufficiently intense to be compared to a thunderbolt, the tissue is completely disorganized, and loses forever its physiological properties. But (2), Death can take place by reflex action in exciting the bulbular centers, as a mechanical irritation would do it. This germ of excitation is accompanied by all the phenomena of action at a distance, studied by Brown-Sequard under the names of inhibition and "*dynamogénie*." This is why the lesions are not regular, and can present an infinite variety, according to the variable point of the nervous centers excited. Death, artificially caused, is almost always due to an arrest of respiration, which being prolonged causes death definitely by asphyxia. The practical conclusion of the author is, that in the great majority of cases life can be restored on immediately afterwards applying artificial respiration.

IV.—EXPERIMENTAL.

Psychophysiologische Protistenstudien. Experimentelle Untersuchungen von DR. MAX VERWORN. Jena, 1889. pp. 217.

After an affectionate introductory note to his former teachers, Hæckel